

of the working group has been integrated in the IX Plan document of the Council. The implementation of this will help in improving the standards of education and research in Agriculture and allied disciplines to meet the requirements due to liberalisation and globalisation programme.

- Conservation, planned enhancement and utilisation of agro-biodiversity.
- Enhancing productivity through evolution of high-yielding hybrids and varieties.
- Research on diversification, quality improvement, post-harvest technology, value addition and export-oriented commodities.
- Sustaining enhanced productivity of irrigated agriculture and judicious development and use of energy, especially renewable sources of energy.
- Characterization and development of sustainable land-use models for rainfed agriculture in high-rainfall areas.
- Development of the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management System (INMS) approaches and systems for sustainable agriculture.
- Fostering excellence in the relevant basic and strategic research.
- Generating research and technologies geared to promote equity among regions, sectors of society and gender.
- Strengthening social science, policy planning agri-business, research monitoring mechanisms, administration and personnel reforms, publication and information dissemination system.
- Strengthening the Agriculture Research Information System (ARIS).
- Promoting the Agricultural Human Resource Development (AHRD).
- Linking Scientists with the farmers through Institute Village Linkage Programme (IVLP) as an innovative technology transfer model.
- Institutionalization and strengthening linkages/partnership with the CGIAR and other national and international agencies and research and development establishments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), farmer organisations, private sectors etc.
- Optimization of resources through planning, prioritization and co-ordination.

(c) and (d) The intake capacity of various educational institutions in Agriculture has by and large increased at the rate of 10-14% in the decade 1980-1990-91. However,

during last five years, there has been reorientation of courses to accommodate new courses to meet the present day requirements. Thus, in some disciplines, the intake capacity has increased and in others decreased. For examples: New courses like Computer application in agriculture, Animal and Plant Bio-technology, Pomology, Pest Harvest Technology, Water Science & Technology, Environmental Science, Floriculture Agri-Business were started during last five years.

[Translation]

Vehicular Pollution

4765. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private vehicles owners in Delhi are required to get pollution clearance certificates for protecting the environment in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether Government vehicles, buses and trucks of the Delhi Transport Corporation are causing more pollution in Delhi and no action against them is being taken by the police and administration; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in order to check pollution being caused by the official vehicles, buses, jeeps and trucks in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) All vehicles are required to carry a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate from the Transport Department of Delhi for protecting the environment.

(b) In Delhi, major contributor to the vehicular pollution are omissions from two and three-wheelers. The Delhi Transport Department is taking action against all polluting vehicles including Government vehicles and Delhi Transport Corporation buses.

(c) Some specific measures taken by the Government to check vehicular pollution in Delhi include :

(i) Enforcement measures against polluting vehicles were continued by the Transport Department of the Government of NCT Delhi. The number of patrol stations equipped with pollution check facilities for petrol vehicles was increased to augment the facilities of the Transport Department.

(ii) The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has decided to supply pre-mixed fuel (petrol and stroke engine oil) in the specified ratio for the use of 2-stroke engine vehicles in a time-targeted manner.

(iii) The Government has approved the first phase of the project for the Mass Rapid Transport System (MRTS) for Delhi.

(iv) To encourage the conversion of in-use vehicles to use cleaner fuels such as compressed natural gas (CNG), the Government has converted a large number of its vehicles to CNG. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas plans to expand the supply of CNG by the setting up of additional on-line stations along the HBJ pipe-line.

(v) Low-sulphur diesel is being supplied at all outlets of Delhi since 1.4.1996.

(vi) The number of outlets supplying unleaded petrol within city limits was expanded from 80 to 197 as on 1.4.1996 and from 8 to 124 on highways as on 1.11.1996. The number of outlets is expected to be increased during the current year to 222 within the city limits and to 145 on the highways.

(vii) Free pollution check camps were continued to be organised by the Transport Department, Government of Delhi and by the automobile manufacturers.

[English]

Rainfall in Gujarat

4766. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that about 90-percent of the crops have perished and livestock have to be shifted in Gujarat particularly in the Kutch district due to very low level of rainfall during the current year;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard and the details regarding rainfall and droughts in the State during the said period;

(c) the details regarding amount of financial assistance allocated and actually released so far from Calamity Relief Fund for this purpose;

(d) whether any detailed report has been received by the Central Government from the State Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) and (b) According to the information received from the Government of Gujarat, out of 896 villages of 9 Talukas in Kutch district, the State Government have declared scarcity in 687 villages and semi-scarcity in 208 villages, due to deficient rainfall to the extent of 57% during the South-West Monsoon, 1996.

(c) to (e) A Memorandum was recieved from the

Government of Gujarat detailing the extent of drought situation in various districts and the proposed relief measures. Government of India have already released to the State Government Rs. 104.70 crores as their share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) during 1996-97 and Rs. 18.41 crores for the CRF for 1997-98 to enable the State Government to undertake necessary relief measures.

Sugarcane Shortage

4767. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sugar mills are hit by cane shortage during 1996-97 sugar season;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(c) the loss of sugar production in the country as a result thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to avoid the recurrence of such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) and (b) So far no State Government has reported shortage in availability of sugarcane to the sugar mills during the current 1996-97 sugar season. However, as per the available information as on 31st March, 1997, 321 sugar mills were in operation during 1996-97 season as against 395 and 313 on the corresponding dates of 1995-96 and 1994-95 sugar seasons respectively.

(c) and (d) The production of sugar during the current 1996-97 sugar season as on 31st March, 1997 was 106.05 lakh tonnes as against 117.27 lakh tonnes on the corresponding date last year. The Government have taken steps to increase sugar production such as increase in minimum sugarcane price, grant of loans from Sugar Development Fund for cane development etc.

[Translation]

World Wild Animals Day

4768. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Wild Animals Day was observed during October, 1990;

(b) if so, the details of the programme organised on the said occasion;

(c) whether on that day any message was given regarding protection of wild animals; and